Removal of Encroachments from the Ridge in Delhi

7949. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT ..AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed recently that all the encroachments be removed from the Ridges in Delhi, which is the city's dwinding green lung;

(b) if so, whether a beginning would be made in this direction by first removing the Polo Ground of the President from the Ridge, followed by the removal of all Government encroachments, including army and para-military camps, religious and private encroachments; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has issued a notification on 24.5.1994 under Section-4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 for declaring Ridge areas as reserved forest. Also, under the Indian Forest Act, 1927, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has appointed a Forest Settlement Officer to determine the existence, nature and extent of any rights alleged to exist in favour of any person in or over any land comprised within limits of the areas notified under Section-4 on 24.5.1994. This Ministry has already requested the Delhi Administration to take action for evicting all the encroachmens on Delhi Ridge in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

Statistics about Forest Wealth

7950. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are maintaining district-wise statistics of the forest wealth in the country;

(b) if so which organisation has been responsible for updating such statistics; and

(c) whether help of the State Government is sought in updating such statistics; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, an Organisation of this Ministry, carries out district-wise assessment of the Forest cover of the country on a two years cycle basis, based on visual interpretations of Land-sat imageries.

(c) The State Governments provide cooperation and assistance in carrying out such assessment for updating the statistics.

Import of a Poisonous Chemical

7951. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

Whether a chemical used in manufacture of foam which, if catches fire, emits MIC like gas, as was emitted in Bhopal gas tragedy, is imported every year in huge quantity; if so, the details thereof, indicating the amount of this chemical imported during 1991-92, 1992—94, and 1994-95 so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH):

A number of chemicals are used in the manufacture of foam, including isocyanates. When these are burnt, the emissions may include methyl isocyanate (MIC). As per information available, the amounts of isocyanates imported during 1991-92, 1992-94 and 1994-95 are 5349 tons 15353 tons and 7221 tons respectively.

Pollution in Rivers

7952. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether pollution of major rivers has become a major cause of water borne diseases;

(b) whether the Ministry is monitoring the pollution of major rivers like River Godavari;

(c) if so, what are the findings; and

(d) if not, how Government propose to institute permanent machinery to monitor water quality on rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The pollution of rivers is one of the causes of water borne diseases for the population that use the river water for drinking or bathing purposes.

(b) The Central Pollution Control Board through State Pollution Control Boards monitors the water quality of major rivers including river Godavari.

(c) and (d) The monitoring results revealed that river Godavari is polluted in the stretch around Nasik and Nanded in Maharashtra and Manchurial, Bhadrachalam, Rajamundry and Ramagrundam in Andhra Pradesh.

Guidelines for Holding Press Conferences Abroad

7953. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued directives to our diplomatic missions abroad, for the guidance of our leaders on visit to foreign countries, in regard to their meeting and addressing the people and visiting different places;

(b) whether any violation of these directives has come to the notice of Government;

(c) if so, the nature of violations received; and

(d) whether Government propose to further strengthen those guidelines to ensure their follow-up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R L. BHATIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

भारत को दक्षिण अफ्रीका के सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में निवेश की पेशकश

7954. श्री अनन्तराव देशमुख दवे :

श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या दक्षिण अफ्रीका की सरकार ने अपने देश के सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों में निवेश करने के लिए भारतीय उद्यमियों तथा भारत सरकार को आमंत्रित किया है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) क्या वहां के सरकारी शिष्टमंडल की हाल की यात्रा के दौरान भारत सरकार के साथ इस संबंध में किसी समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर किए गए हैं ;